

فلس

may get Soviet MiG-27's

March 3 (R). — There is a strong possibility Soviet Union will supply Syria with its advanced fighter-plane, the Paris-based Arab and international Nahar reported today. The weekly paper added it had asked the Soviet Union to supply it with number of T-82 tanks as well as surface-to-surface missiles. Quoting informed Arab sources, the paper said the Soviet Union had formally pledged to build an air bridge between Moscow and Damascus a few hours' should a Syrian-Israeli war break out. Link would serve to supply Syria with all its requirements throughout the fighting, it added.

JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورن تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

Arafat says Arab heads must act to defend Palestinians in Egypt

BEIRUT, March 3 (AP). — Palestine Liberation Organisation Leader Yasser Arafat today sent messages to Arab heads of state calling on them to "shoulder their responsibilities" and put an end to the recent Egyptian measures against the Palestinian people, the Palestine news agency Wafa reported. Earlier in the week the Egyptian government imposed restrictions depriving Palestinians living in Egypt of social and professional privileges they have enjoyed for more than 20 years.

Page 3, Number 693

AMMAN, SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1978 — RABIE AWAL 24, 1398

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.



At a ceremony watched by more than 100 news correspondents in a suburban Salisbury mansion Friday, (from left to right) Bishop Abel Muzorewa, Mr. Ian Smith, Chief Jeremiah Chimara and the Rev. Ndabandani Sithole sign a Rhodesian constitutional agreement. See story on page 6. (AP wirephoto)

Atherton arrives in Amman to push peace talks forward

AMMAN, March 3 (Agencies). — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton today drove to Amman from Israel for a two-day stay and talks with Jordanian officials. Mr. Atherton's car crossed the Jordan River and drove immediately to U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering's residence in Amman.

An American embassy spokesman said Mr. Atherton, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, hoped to see His Majesty King Hussein tomorrow.

Mr. Atherton's present shuttle between Jerusalem and Cairo to help draft an agreement on a declaration of principles for Mideast peace took a new turn yesterday when he handed a letter from President Anwar Sadat to Premier Menachem Begin of Israel.

Mr. Begin declined to say what Mr. Sadat's letter contained, but stated that based on this message, and his reply to it next week, "There is reason to say the negotiations... will continue."

Mr. Atherton plans to visit Saudi Arabia and return to Egypt to keep up the momentum until Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin visits U.S. President Jimmy Carter on March 13.

Observers in Amman believe that Mr. Atherton will not be able to achieve a breakthrough in his mission before the end of the Carter-Begin talks.

Semi-official sources in Amman quoted by the Associated Press said King Hussein will visit Washington later this month to hold talks with President Carter.

No official statement has been issued in this respect from the royal palace yet.

Mr. Atherton's visit here follows that of British Foreign Secretary David Owen, who said last weekend the momentum generated by President Sadat's peace initiative should not be lost.

Dr. Owen said that without Jordanian participation in the negotiations, it was difficult to see any resolution of the West Bank issue, any homeland for the Palestinians, or peace in the Middle East.

The scope of U.N. Resolution 242

Israeli leaders are meanwhile reportedly preparing to face vigorous pressure from President Jimmy Carter to soften their negotiating stance.

The president's emphasis at a Washington press conference yesterday on the importance of adhering to United Nations Resolution 242 was viewed by officials in occupied Jerusalem as a clear rebuff to attitudes lately expressed by Israeli ministers.

Resolution 242, cornerstone of Middle East peace negotiations, calls for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab land

without saying explicitly to what extent. Israeli leaders have been arguing recently this does not apply to the West Bank of the River Jordan.

Such an interpretation runs counter to the American view that withdrawal to some degree must take place in all three occupied areas. Officials in Jerusalem expect President Carter to press this point strongly when he meets Mr. Begin in Washington.

The dispute over withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, together with the political future of the Arabs who live there, remains the overriding problem hampering negotiations between Israel and Egypt.

It is these two questions that have kept Mr. Atherton shuttling between Cairo and Jerusalem in search of an agreed declaration of principles on Middle East peace.

Following President Carter's remarks, some officials in Jerusalem argued that Israel was not specifically refusing to accept the application of Resolution 242 to the West Bank and Gaza. They claimed the reason the matter could not be discussed was "the absence of a negotiating partner," a clear reference to Jordan.

The Israeli officials contended that while it was possible to negotiate a Sinai withdrawal because Egypt was engaging in negotiations, the West Bank could not be discussed in the same way without participation of Jordan.

Mr. Begin has said that Israel could not permit non-Israeli control over the West Bank because of the potential threat this would pose to Israel's security. In recent weeks the Foreign Ministry has been distributing maps illustrating that missiles could easily be lobbed from the West Bank at the heartland of Israel.

Eban says Israelis must withdraw from West Bank: Page 6

Strong opposition to applying 242 to the West Bank has come from Haim Landau, Minister without Portfolio and a friend of Mr. Begin. In a newspaper interview, Mr. Landau said that for the Israeli government it was a cardinal plank of policy "that 242 does not mean withdrawal on all fronts."

Labour Party opposition

The apparent widening of the gap between Israeli and Egyptian leaders has brought a rally in the leadership of the opposition Labour Alignment which, since its election defeat at last May, has shown uncertainty about which direction its policies should take.

Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has accused the government of intransigence. And an article in today's Jerusalem Post by former Foreign Minister Abba Eban said that exclusion of the West Bank from Resolution 242 was a distinct retreat from former Israeli pledges.

Abu Odeh says

Jordan will not join peace talks at present

KUWAIT, March 3 (JNA). — The Minister of Information, Adnan Abu Odeh said in a newspaper interview today that Jordan will not be willing to join in the peace negotiations currently going on between Egypt and Israel under the present circumstances.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti weekly Annahdha Al Usbuliyeh published here today, the minister said that Jordan aims at a peaceful settlement based on a well known formula: Peace in return for occupied Arab land and recognition by Israel of full rights for the Palestinian people.

The Arabs have offered a great deal for peace, Mr. Abu Odeh said, but Israel did not

thing. It stalls for time and continues to establish settlements on occupied Arab land. The minister expressed the view that Israel will not change its "anti peace" policy in the region in the wake of President Sadat's peace initiative.

With regard to U.S. efforts to help Egypt and Israel formulate a joint declaration of principles for a peaceful settlement, the minister said that Israel's talk about the declaration is nothing but part of a deceitful campaign. The required principles he said, are well known and were contained in the U.N. resolutions passed ten years ago. The problem, he concluded, is Israel's refusal to commit itself to those resolutions.

Somalia hints it is willing to mend bridges with Moscow

ROME, March 3 (AP). — Somali Foreign Minister Abdurrahman Gama Barre attacked the United States here today for giving his country "only sterile and vague words" and supplying weapons to rival Ethiopia. He also said Somalia welcomed "anyone who works to bring us close to the Soviet Union."

SIAD BARRE ENDS TRIPOLI VISIT

MOGADISHU, SOMALIA, March 3 (AP). — President Mohamud Siad Barre returned home today from Tripoli after talks about the Ogaden war with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. Details of the talks were not disclosed. The two leaders reportedly met three times in the Libyan capital. Libya, whose foreign minister recently visited Moscow, supports Ethiopia in the seven-month-old conflict, which has been catapulted from a regional war into an international confrontation. Diplomats speculated the Soviet Union may be using the Libyan leader as a go-between with Somalia to effect a settlement of the conflict, which would leave Moscow in a position to reassert its influence in Somalia.

President Siad left Mogadishu for Tripoli Tuesday in secrecy. The Somali government withheld notification of his departure until Thursday and a news blackout was imposed on foreign newsmen's stories about the presidential trip.

support to Ethiopia. The Somali minister made the statements during a stopover at Rome international airport on his way from Tripoli, Libya, to Cairo.

In Tripoli he had attended also talks between Somali President Siad Barre and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. The foreign minister avoided a direct reply to a query whether the Tripoli talks meant a mediating role for Libya both in relations with the Soviet Union and with Ethiopia over the Ogaden conflict.

He said: "Libya and Somalia, both members of the Organisation of African Unity have common problems and interests that bind the two countries. The talks are aimed at improving relations between the two countries."

Libya has openly backed Ethiopia in the wake of the Soviet shift of support from one country to the other in the Horn of Africa.

The Somali minister did not disclose details of his visit to Cairo. Egypt has been providing political backing and military

supplies to Somalia in its conflict with Ethiopia over Somali-inhabited Ogaden.

The minister said the Soviet Union "had trapped itself into a kind of Vietnam" by getting involved in the Ogaden war where Somali rebels are fighting for independence against Ethiopian and Cuban troops.

"It will end up as in Vietnam because even if the Soviets may attain some military achievements, the final victory will be of the liberation front that is determined to fight to the end," he said.

He described the American stand as "very surprising," he said. "I think that after all the United States are helping the Soviet Union. They shut their eyes and decline to shoulder their responsibility."

The Somali foreign minister referred to "shipments of weapons" by the United States to Ethiopia without elaborating.

Washington said last week shipments were stopped on patrol boats, jet engines and artillery parts, but delivery permitted for 23 trucks and trailers.



Somali civilians Tuesday march in the capital Mogadishu shouting slogans against Russian and Ethiopian aggression. (AP wirephoto)

Lebanese Baathist leader demands army, militias be disbanded

BEIRUT, March 3 (AP). — A Syrian-backed Lebanese leader today called for disbanding the Lebanese army, and leftist Muslim and rightwing Christian militias.

Mr. Assem Kansou also demanded that all militia leaders involved in Lebanon's civil war be brought to trial for "destroying Lebanon and exposing it to partition."

Mr. Kansou heads the pro-Syrian Baath Party in Lebanon. He usually reflects the official views of Syrian President Hafez Assad's ruling Baath Party.

Syria provides the bulk of a 300,000-man Arab League army that smothered the 18-month sectarian conflict 16 months ago. The Syrians still police the Lebanese peace. They fought four days of savage battles last month with regular and irregular Lebanese rightwing Christians that left more than 150 killed on both sides.

In a news statement, Mr. Kansou proposed a six-point programme to ensure permanent peace and prevent a rekindling of the civil war. He called for:

— Disarming Lebanon altogether and combining its entire 4,015 square mile territory to purge saboteurs.

— Disbanding the newly regrouped Lebanese army to reconstruct it on a non-sectarian basis. This should entail compulsory service, cancelling the post of army commander and establishing a system of joint chiefs of staff.

— Working out new arrangements for Lebanese coexistence with the Palestinian resistance movement.

— Re-establishing authority of the Lebanese state over the entire southern regions bordering Israel, where fighting is still going on.

— Disbanding all Lebanese militias and bringing their leaders to trial.

— Adopting a Lebanese Arab policy that would ensure genuine peace based on distinguished relations with other Arab nations, particularly Syria.

Mr. Kansou made the proposal after a visit to the Syrian capital and talks with government officials in Damascus.

Hundreds of children plant a forest at Yajouz

By Ian Kellas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, March 3 — Three thousand pine trees were planted today on the slopes of the "Yajouz Forest for Children". The "forest" was not much in evidence, apart from rows of little sprucelings lined up ready for planting. But the children were very much in evidence, swarming about on the hillside, wielding axes, and patting the trees happily into the ready-prepared holes.

The proceedings were given a ceremonial flavour by the bus loads of scouts and girl guides who lined up to clap and chant for the planters and for the Mayor of Amman, Mr. Ma'an Abu Nuwar, who turned up with his large family of children, to represent the Crown Prince.

About 250 dunums of land, up on the hills behind the sports city, have been allocated for a national park. Today the children planted about 15 dunums of that with young pine trees provided by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The land for the park had already been fenced off and prepared for today's planting by members of the Friends of the Children Club. The children



With a bit of back-work and a lot of communal encouragement one more tree is planted at Yajouz.



Girl guides warm up before giving a spirited performance of clapping and chanting to encourage the planters.

dren came along today in response to an invitation put out in the club's popular radio and television programmes.

Brief speeches were given by Mr. Abu Nuwar and by Mrs. Hind Nasser, President of the Friends of the Children Club. Accompanied by flag-carrying scouts, the crowd then moved in a colourful mass towards the plot of land prepared for the planting.

The sprucelings will need to be tended for another three years before they will be strong enough to grow up into a forest on their own.

The club has arranged similar planting days in the past and is also going to help plant an "international friendship forest". The trees for this will be provided by children from all over the world. Some have already arrived from Pakistan.

But the club's activities are not confined to forestry. They are preparing now for an enormous children's book fair which will take place in April. About 80,000 books will be on sale at cut prices.

The club is also soon to open a centre for children, near the Sixth Circle. There will be facilities there for painting and dance and music.

Some children rushed off to lay claim to their own trees and started attacking the dry soil with implements about twice their height. Others were noticeably better at telling their parents what to do. In any case everybody seemed to be enjoying the day out.

From the hillside at Yajouz you can look out over a wide stretch of rough, treeless landscape.



One young tree-planter supervises her father's efforts.

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Editor: RAMI G. KHOURI
Managing Editor: JENAB TUTUNJI
Deputy Managing Editor: RASSAM BISHUTI
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JUMA'A HAMAD
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Responsible Editor: MOHAMAD AMAD

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan
Telephones: 67171-2-3-4
Tlx: 1497 Al Rai JO, Cables: JORTIMES, Amman Jordan

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Jordan's special libraries offer public a wealth of hard-to-find technical data

Text and photos
 By Marianne Pearson
 Special to the Jordan Times

Today libraries are considered an important part of any large well-run organisation. Special libraries concentrate on one subject and serve mainly members of the institution which supports them. Usually they permit outsiders to use them, but not to take library materials home. That is true of these four outstanding special libraries in Amman.

They have the same opening hours, also: 8:30 to 2:00 p.m. every day except Friday. And a boon for English speakers is that the collections are chiefly in English.

Royal Scientific Society Library and Technical Information Centre is the largest of Amman's special libraries with almost 30,000 books and subscriptions to 900 periodicals.

Its spacious premises, built about four years ago, are located near the University, a short distance by the road which runs past the new University mosque. It is close to the University in a spirit of cooperation, also. Researchers from either institution use both libraries. The librarians work together to avoid unnecessary duplication in the collections.

"Science" is interpreted broadly by the Library, reflecting the interests of the Society itself. It is particularly strong in mechanical and electronic engineering, industrial chemistry, building materials, economics, and education.

Old library, new building

Publications of international standards organisations, doctoral and masters theses, Rand Corporation publications and Jordan's Bureau of Statistics reports are some of its important holdings. There is a microfilm and microfiche unit with three readers and a microfilm machine to make copies of reference materials and periodical articles.



Mrs. Shadia Al Mufti of the Natural Resources Authority library shows maps of the German Geological Mission in Jordan.

The Library published in 1977 A List of Periodical Holdings available at the Library, and prepares monthly a list of new acquisitions which is distributed to Society staff members and about 90 interested institutions and individuals outside.

Oldest among the special libraries is, appropriately, that of the Department of Antiquities. It was established in 1952. The building in which

it is housed is the newest, however. Staff moved into the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre early this year. Finishing touches are still being put on the building. The Library's round reading room repeats the shape of the ancient Ammonite tower adjacent to it on Jabal Amman. Its collection consists of about 4,000 books and 95 periodicals.

Other valuable information sources in the new building are the bibliography on archaeological science in Jordan which indexes hard-to-find articles and monographs as well as books. References are catalogued by author, subject and site. A large-size card file, illustrated with photographs, indexes archaeological discoveries in Jordan by sites, periods and subjects. For illustrated lectures on archaeology in Jordan, coloured slides are made available to qualified persons. These may be borrowed for up to a week at a time.

Available for sale at the office of the librarian, Rawia Nabel, are publications of the Department of Antiquities. The latest is the Annual Report, dated 1976, which contains articles about recent work in Jordan.

The Natural Resources Authority Library is located on the bottom floor of the main office on Ras Al Ain Street. It has its own outside entrance.

Geological maps

According to its librarian Mrs. Shadia Al Mufti, the Library concentrates on geology. The books number about 12,000. Technicians exploring in Jordan for water, mineral resources and petroleum find

up-to-date information there to support their research.

Staff of the Library prepare monthly "Current awareness" reports which list new periodicals received. A bi-monthly acquisition list of new books is also prepared. These are sent to interested staff members and other scientific libraries in the area. To supply staff members with articles not available in the Library, photocopies are ordered from England and received "within a fortnight."

The most valuable works in the collection are the reports and maps of the German Geological Mission in Jordan. The maps printed in 1974, are available for sale at JD 3 each; a complete set covering Jordan is JD 15. The reports can be consulted only at the Library.

Anyone doing research in economics may use the Lib-



Mrs. Queenie Elissa of the Central Bank Library has trained librarians of new special libraries in Amman.



Periodicals librarian at Royal Scientific Society Library displays a display of library strengths, among them studies on scientific education and computers.

rary of the Central Bank located on the fourth floor of the Bank building. It has a collection of about 10,000 books not including UN publications and receives 250 periodicals and many miscellaneous serial publications from Central Banks throughout the world.

The Library has a special section of books about Jordan, publications concerning banking in the West Bank and annual reports of the Bank of Israel. It contains all international Monetary Fund and United Nations publications. The laws of Arab countries

and regulations of banks throughout the world are other strengths of the collection. Periodicals go back to 1965 when the Library was established, but it is too late to get photocopies of earlier issues.

Mrs. Queenie Elissa, an librarian since the library was established, she is proud of it and show it to outsiders. It is the best special library in the city," Mrs. Elissa helped to train many new who afterwards new special libraries man.

Beyond 242

U.S. President Carter's reiteration of the need to base a Middle East peace settlement on the principles of Security Council resolution 242 is obviously welcomed, particularly in light of President Carter's stated view that an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories must be more or less total, including the Golan Heights and Arab Jerusalem. But simply to mention again the importance of 242 is unexciting at this point, because the intentional vagueness of 242, though it was appropriate in 1967, is no longer sufficient today. The Israelis accepted 242 because it did not specify a total withdrawal, only withdrawal, which in Israeli eyes can be interpreted to mean half a withdrawal or even less than that. So to stress again the applicability of a vague commitment to withdraw that was expedient ten years ago is not much of a help to the current peace efforts of the Americans via the persistent Mr. Atherton.

There is the meaningful argument that only vague wording, such as we have in 242, can be agreed upon by the Arabs and the Israelis. But at some point, the vagueness has to be translated into more emphatic clarity, meaning a total Israeli withdrawal with border changes that are cosmetic and reciprocal on the Arab and Israeli sides. This is the next step that is required from all concerned, including the Americans, though we understand that the delicacy of their mediating role may preclude this for the moment.

The other aspect of 242 that is unacceptably vague is the reference to the Palestinians simply as a refugee problem. The American-Soviet joint statement of last October went well beyond 242 by talking about the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, and it is this kind of advance that is required in agreeing on new phraseologies to form the basis of a negotiated and comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace accord. The American secretary of state himself has often said that the Americans have always viewed the Palestinian question as one that is much broader than simply one of refugees. In pronouncing themselves on these two key aspects of 242 -- a full Israeli withdrawal and Palestinian rights -- one feels that simply reiterating the imprecision of ten years ago is insufficient and inappropriate, given the boldness of the recent Egyptian opening and the obvious willingness of the Arabs to agree to the security needs of Israel and all the states in the region.



Shelving of books in Department of Antiquities Library's new circular reading room is being completed.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL DUSTOUR today called on President Anwar Sadat to announce the failure of his Middle East peace initiative towards Israel.

The daily said "President Sadat should tell his people and the Arab nation that it is impossible to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict by negotiations and that the Arab nation should abandon for good the illusions of negotiated peace."

The paper described the mission by United States Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton as impossible. Mr. Atherton is engaged in shuttle diplomacy between Egypt and Israel to try to get their peace talks resumed.

"He has been unable to convince the Israelis that peace does not match with the acquisition of land, and also unable to convince the Egyptians ... to accept full peace with Israel and to give her the land," it said.

"He will definitely be unable to convince Amman, in his visit to the Jordanian capital today, to join in this game."

The paper added: "This American gentleman is destined to turn into an American lost in the desert mirage."

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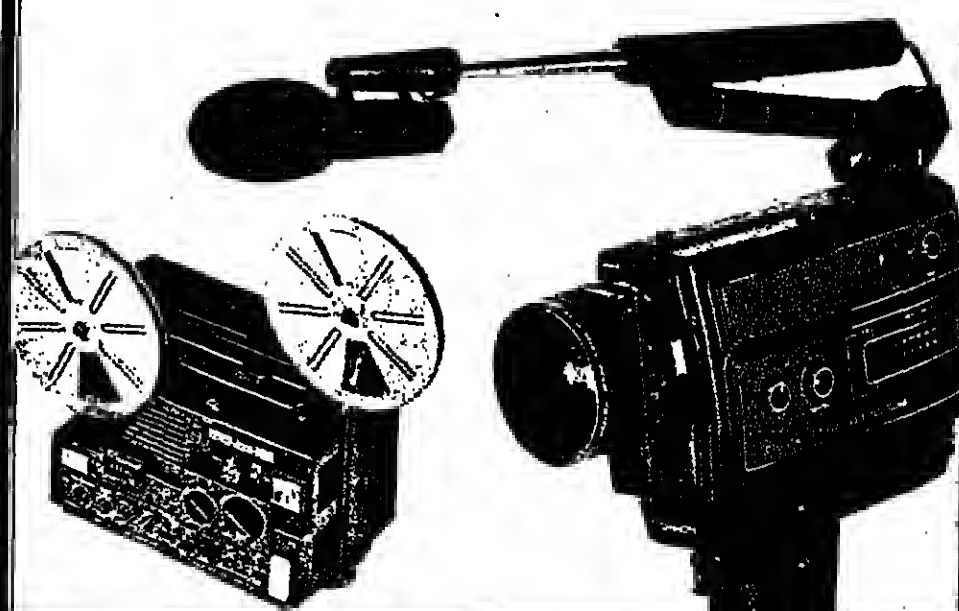
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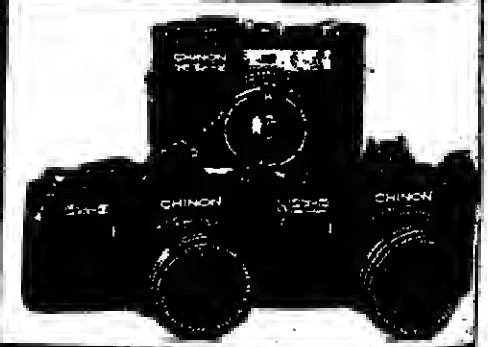


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Joha & His Donkey thrills one and all during ten-day run at Haya Arts Centre

By Joyce Abou Jassar
Special to the Jordan Times

"Joha and His Donkey", a play now being presented by the Haya Arts Centre, has capacity rowed at the theatre's theatre in its first public performance here in a ten-day run continuing until the end of next week, or March 10.

Friday's tickets were sold out immediately to those waiting, while the remainder of the tickets for other days from the secretary in the centre's hexagonal main building. The performance is at 4:00 p.m. daily.

Based on the folk character oh, the play was written by Jassim Sawalha and was first presented in English last year by the Arab Arts Club in London.

Currently serving as director of the Arab Arts Club, Mr. Sawalha is a well established international film actor and is well known for his broadcasts on the BBC.

"Joha and His Donkey" was

translated into Arabic for its presentation at the Haya Arts Centre by Mr. Nabil Sawalha, Director of the center. In addition to directing the many varied activities of the Haya Centre and translating plays, Mr. Sawalha will be starring in a play for adults in the near future.

The main character of the play, Joha, is a prominent figure in Arabic folklore, and centre of many amusing anecdotes.

A typical tale is that of Joha meandering through the marketplace, raising his hands to the heavens and proclaiming, "Thank God, thank God!"

His friends, upon seeing him, amusedly asked him, "And why are you thanking God today, Joha?"

"Because my donkey is lost," he responds.

"What? You're thanking God because you've lost a valuable animal such as your donkey? How could you do that?" they queried.

"Oh," Joha very wisely replied, "If I had been riding him, I too would be lost."



Action fills the air during a London performance of "Joha and His Donkey".

Volume of imports via Aqaba increases

AMMAN, March 3 (JNA). — Goods imported via Aqaba port last year registered a considerable increase over the previous year's figures.

According to a statistical report issued by the harbour authority, 1,134,598 tons of various goods were unloaded in 1977 in comparison with 959,571 tons in 1976.

The report also indicated an increase in the number of ships docking at the port. The number of ships unloading goods in January of this year was 92 whereas the number in Jan. 1977 was only 72.

GOT SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?

WRITE TO: P.O. BOX 6710

Absurdity's loophole

By Bassam Bishuti

Truth zanier than fiction

The world, this week, celebrates the war 8,000 years ago between Pharaoh Nubara Sadatamba the Great of the land of Gyp-tina and the united Pal-Cyprians -- the pygmies of Palasia and the dwarfs of Cyprasia.

Apart from this remarkable war, history remembers Pharaoh Nubara Sadatamba the Great for two things: the commando unit, far advanced for the age, he personally trained to starve the ancient world with clandestine raids across Gyp-tina's borders and the startling failures of this unit to do anything properly when asked. A particular school of historians claims that he is also remembered as the first head of state of appoint, as his special ambassador to the court of the dwarfs of Cyprasia, his own personal camel.

Pharaoh Nubara Sadatamba the Great's war with the pygmies and dwarfs of Pal-Cypria started when these creatures -- for they were not really men -- began to believe they were as tall as the great pharaoh. They joined forces against him, or so the pharaoh's biographer tells us, and concocted a plan to make him alternatively appear as a pygmy and a dwarf himself.

That was one version of the story, based on the surviving biography of the pharaoh. Another school of historians thinks the real cause of the hostility was Pharaoh Nubara Sadatamba the Great's secret plan to join with the neighbouring tribes of the Judamians in occupying the fertile lands of the Palasian pygmies. When the Palasians got wind of the conspiracy, so the historians tell us, they sought help from their neighbours to the west, the dwarfs of Cyprasia. The move was crowned with a political union of the pygmies and dwarfs as the nation of Pal-Cypria.

Pharaoh Nubara Sadatamba the Great realised, the story goes, that the new united nation was aimed against him so he plotted to defeat and dismember it. History knows him for cleverness so he cleverly planned to hit at the Pal-Cyprians separately -- one separate blow for each.

First he appointed his personal camel as

a special ambassador to the court of the Cyprasians and when these dwarfs objected -- on the grounds that the camel should have been sent instead to the united court of the Pal-Cyprians -- the pharaoh sent his famed commando unit to Cyprasia under the pretext of releasing the hostage camel from Cyprasian anger. The Cyprasians ambushed the coming commandos and killed more than a dozen of their highly trained men before they could even raise their weapons.

The pharaoh, we are told, got very angry and history knows that the Illumined Self -- as his personal title described him -- was very prone to losing his temper. He called back the remnant of his commandos, gave them a triumphal welcome and praised their bravery. He described their fiasco in Cyprasia as a lesson they taught to the dwarfs. Some historians explain this line of reasoning -- and history knows the pharaoh for great lines of reasoning -- as an attempt to quieten the commandos down lest they turn against him and kill him for the failure of his raid into Cyprasia. In more modern times we call this "local consumption".

Secondly, as far as the pygmies of Palasia were concerned, the pharaoh acted thus. He accused them of conspiring with the Cyprasian dwarfs against his ambassador camel and said that they "must bear the consequences resulting from this stand" which were that be will, henceforth, withhold his blessing from the sizeable community of pygmy Palasians living in his laud of Gyp-tina.

Yet another school of historians thinks the whole story of the war between Pharaoh Nubara Sadatamba the Great and the united pygmies and dwarfs of Pal-Cypria to have been nothing more than a myth invented by the pharaoh and recorded by his biographer to celebrate a non-existent triumph in order to boost the pharaoh's ego and improve his standing with the people of Gyp-tina -- for history also knows Pharaoh Nubara Sadatamba the Great as a great dreamer of grandeur and victories that took place nowhere except in his imagination.

Arab Jerusalem mayor issues appeal

AMMAN, March 3 (JNA). — The Israeli occupation authorities are determined to complete measures of judaizing the five Islamic quarters adjoining Jerusalem's Haram Al Sharif western wall which had already been illegally confiscated by these authorities on April 18, 1968, in defiance of U.N. General Assembly and the Security Council resolutions, the Mayor of Arab Jerusalem, Mr. Rouhi

Al Khatib, said yesterday. Mr. Al Khatib, who was deported here by the Israeli government in 1969, said that the ancient "Abu Medienne Al Goth" praying place in the middle of the Moghrabi Quarter, adjacent to the Al Aqsa mosque, and the rest of the nearby waqf properties, are now threatened with collapse, due to Israeli diggings, which would entail the eviction of their

guardians and people, and wiping out the traces of the Arab Maghrib civilisation in these places.

The Mayor of Arab Jerusalem appealed to Arab and Islamic countries to raise this matter before UNESCO and the U.N. Security Council and call on them to work to halt the Israeli aggressive designs against the Islamic holy places in occupied Jerusalem.

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Kuwaiti minister calls for oil price rise to offset declining value of dollar

KUWAIT, March 3 (R). — Kuwaiti Finance Minister Abdul Rahman Al Atiqi today called for higher oil prices to offset revenue losses suffered by oil-exporting countries because of the declining value of the U.S. dollar. Kuwait is planning to contact ministers of other oil exporting countries to attend an emergency meeting to discuss the matter, the minister said in a newspaper interview.

He told the daily newspaper Al Watan that the decline of the American currency, in which oil payments are made, has absolved members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) of their commitment to freeze prices. The prices, frozen for the first half of this year under a decision by an OPEC ministerial conference in Venezuela last December, should be raised with retroactive effect from January 1, Mr. Atiqi said.

He did not spell out the increase projected by Kuwait, but said the time has come to lay down criteria through which the decline in the value of the dollar could be accounted for.

Mr. Atiqi urged OPEC countries to cooperate in taking a common stand to preserve their solidarity.

OPEC considers abandoning dollar

Several oil-exporting nations are seriously considering abandoning the U.S. dollar as a price-fixing currency for petroleum, OPEC diplomats said yesterday.

The 13 members countries have lost millions of dollars daily in recent months because of the steadily declining value of the American currency.

OPEC governments have several times considered dropping the dollar as the currency in which oil prices are expressed. Each time they have drawn

back because of failure to find a reliable alternative.

Diplomats from OPEC's nations said there was a growing feeling that prices should be based on a basket of currencies, but member governments disagreed on which currencies should be included and how much weight should be given to the dollar in such an arrangement.

OPEC diplomats said there was mounting concern in all member countries over the state of the dollar. Pressure for a change is coming mainly from Gulf area producers.

Iranian Finance Minister Mohammad Yeganeh said in Washington this week that his country favoured a review of the dollar pricing policy.

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's biggest producer, has also expressed interest in a new pricing mechanism, but has said it will continue to accept payment in dollars.

While OPEC petroleum is priced in dollars, producing nations accept other currencies in payment. But the exchange rate calculation is always based on the dollar. When the dollar is down, customers paying in other currencies get cheaper oil.

Average OPEC oil has been frozen at \$12.70 for a 159-litre barrel since last year, and Saudi Arabia and Iran resisted moves for higher prices when OPEC oil ministers met at Caracas, Venezuela, in December.

The ministers ordered the

OPEC Secretariat to make a special study of problems connected with the dollar "and to propose remedial measures to safeguard the interests of member countries."

OPEC officials said this study was still going on, and the situation was being watched on a day-to-day basis.

According to provisional OPEC

estimates, member countries lost between 10 and 12 billion dollars in the last 12 months due to sagging dollar values.

This calculation was based on a 10-12 per cent loss. A Kuwaiti minister estimated in January that losses in real terms were running at about 20 per cent of the value of a barrel of oil.

Miller's nomination wins U.S. Senate committee approval

WASHINGTON, March 3 (R). — The U.S. Senate Banking Committee yesterday approved by 14 votes to 1 the nomination of industrialist William Miller as Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, America's central bank.

If approved by the full Senate, as is considered probable, Mr. Miller who was nominated by President Carter will replace Mr. Arthur Burns in the influential post.

During the five-week investigation committee Chairman William Proxmire contended that Mr. Miller, head of the Textron Inc. conglomerate, should have known more about the payments of his own subsidiaries allegedly made to an Iranian sales agent to win a helicopter order.

Committee member Edward Brooke said the panel's investigation produced no evidence that Mr. Miller, 52, was involved in any illegality or impropriety.

Textron is, however, still the subject of a separate investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission into alleged bribery overseas to win contracts.

Morocco, Mauritania to set up joint companies to coordinate fishing

RABAT, March 3 (R). — Morocco and Mauritania have agreed to set up joint companies to coordinate their fishing industries, a communique issued here yesterday said.

The joint communique was published here on the return of Moroccan Commerce and Industry Minister Abdulkamel Raghaye from a three-day visit to Nouakchott, where the accord was signed.

The joint companies will exploit the coastal waters of the two countries.

Morocco recently concluded cooperation agreements for fishing with Spain and the Soviet Union.

Turkish business gives cautious welcome to currency devaluation

ISTANBUL, March 3 (R). — Turkey's business community gave a cautious welcome yesterday to the 30 per cent devaluation of the Turkish lira against the dollar, but a prominent trade union leader condemned it as being against workers' interests.

The two-month-old government of Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit announced the devaluation Tuesday as Turkey faced a continuing chronic shortage of foreign exchange and an inflation rate of well over 40 per cent a year.

The general reaction here was that the move would help stem demand for imports, stimulate exports and at the same time help towards restoring Turkey's credit standing abroad.

But they also predicted a rise in domestic prices as a result of what one banker called "a devaluation mentality," thus adding to the soaring cost of living.

Several analysts agreed the devaluation would satisfy in-

ternational financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF). A foreign banker said IMF approval was essential to resume the flow of credits to bridge the trade deficit estimated at \$2.5 billion this year.

The Secretary-General of the leftwing trade union organisation Dik, Mr. Fehmi Isiklar, referring to the prospect of price rises, said the entire working class would oppose the sacrifice demanded of them. The attitude of the trade unions is regarded as important by observers here, as Mr. Ecevit's government styles itself social democrat and has promised to improve the lot of the less privileged among Turkey's 42 million citizens.

A spokesman for Tusiad, the influential Turkish businessmen's and industrialists' association here, said the devaluation must be accompanied by a whole range of fiscal measures including tax reform, new foreign exchange regulations, and incentives for domestic saving.

People in the News

I must see the president

WASHINGTON (R). — A 67-year-old woman crashed car into the southwestern gate of the White House last night but failed to break through into the grounds of executive mansion. She was not injured and her motive the attempt to break through the gate was not known. The crash caused considerable damage to the car only minor damage to the gate, a secret service spokesman said.

Mrs. Wallace to put her kids first

MONTGOMERY, Alabama (AP). — Cornelia Wallace, being married to Governor George C. Wallace, was "a lot more demanding" in an interview with the Alabama Journal recently the divorced Mrs. Wallace said her whirlwind with a nationally known politician kept her from her own time with her children. Mrs. Wallace, a mother of two, said she realised during the last two years marriage to Mr. Wallace that "we were away too much. That, she said, is the reason she stopped traveling with governor. Mrs. Wallace said she now intends to make two sons, from her marriage to John Salvary III, her priority.

300-egg barrier broken

A flock of 4,788 layers belonging to a Cheshire, England, farmer, Mr. Jack Kenyon, have broken the 300-egg barrier producing 301.5 eggs per bird in 52 weeks of lay. More the birds were kept in production for a further eight weeks during which time they boosted the average output to 341 eggs. Another good performance is that of a batch of 500 brown-egg pullets belonging to Nottinghamshire poultry man, Sir John Eastwood. This averaged 253.6 eggs per bird 51 weeks with a daily feed consumption of only 108.8 gms to give an average feed conversion of only 2.53 to 1. It is believed that no other egg producer in the world has been able to achieve this sort of performance on such a scale.

It pays to pray

TAMPA, FLORIDA (AP). — A man attempting to hold two women in a hotel room recently broke down and wept saying he could not go through with it after his victim, a gay praying for his soul, police said. Robert G. Robinson, 34, was charged with two counts of armed robbery, officials said. He was held on \$21,000 bond. A person in an adjacent room heard the man's voice and the loud praying of Rhonda W. 26, of Fort Orange and Marilyn P. 25, of South Dade and summoned hotel security, police said. The women in Tampa attending a Christian Educators Association conference. According to police, the women answered a knock thinking it was a friend. A man entered, said he had a gun and ordered the women to lie on the floor. While he rummaged their purses and the room, the women began to pray then the robber began to cry.

Joint Saudi Arabian S. Korean bank open

SEOUL, March 3 (R). — The Asian Banking Corporation (ABC) was opened here today as a joint venture between Saudi Arabia's Triad Holding Company and a number of South Korean firms.

ABC announced it had an issued capital of \$5.2 million. Triad holds 50 per cent of the equity, while on the Korean side, Tauban Integrated Textile Group has 34 per cent, Korea Exchange Bank four per cent and Sambo Securities Co. two per cent, the announce-

ment said. The remaining per cent is equally shared by five local banks here. South Korea has four joint venture merchant banks here, one each with Kuwait, France and two with Bel-

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

World Bank loans
Morocco \$ 18 m.

WASHINGTON, March 3 (R). — The World Bank said yesterday it has loaned Morocco \$18 million to help finance an urban development project. The bank said the project was designed to improve living conditions in three areas of the capital city Rabat. The loan will be for 20 years and will carry the bank's standard interest rate of 7.45 per cent.

U.S. dollar 308.00/3
U.K. sterling 588.00/3
W. German mark 152.80/1
Swiss franc 108.10/1
French franc 65.50/1
Italian lire (for every 100) 36.30/4
Japanese yen (for every 100) 129.40/1
Dutch guilder 143.10/1
Belgian franc (for every ten) 98.40/1
Swedish crown 67.30/1

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, (R). — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of bank trading on the London foreign exchange market last. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One sterling	1.9392/97	U.S. dollars
One dollar	2.0210/40 <td>West German mark</td>	West German mark
	2.1650/1700	Dutch guilders
	1.8475/8575	Swiss francs
	31.38/43	Belgian francs
	4.7550/7650	French francs
	850.50/851.00	Italian lire
	237.35/59	Japanese yen
	4.8100/50	Swedish crowns
	5.3280/3320	Norwegian crowns
	5.6050/50	Danish crowns

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Stocks held steady with most prices unchanged from session in idle trading Friday, dealers said. At 15:00 the FTSE 100 was up 1.4 at 434.8.

Government bonds firmed slightly following the full public sector borrowing requirement and put on 1/8 point higher on the day. Industrial leaders mostly finished a point higher. However, Becham lost 1/2 to 590.

Gold shares were firm but below the highest levels of the day. Australians advanced while U.S. and Canadian stocks with the lower investment dollar premium.

Glaxo finished 6p higher at 523p and ICI 4p up at 491p. Courtaulds and GEC each advanced 2p to 110 and 239 respectively. Among oil B.P. put on 4p to 724 while Shell added 49p and Burmah ended a penny higher at 45p. Banks were with the leaders from 4p lower to that much higher.

EMI fell 3p earlier but came back to close at 143.

Price of gold closed in London Friday at \$183.45/100

How to get the most mileage for your money

By John Stansell
of New Scientists

LONDON, (LPS) — If you feel that your standard production family car with its fuel consumption of around 7 litres/100 kms. (40 miles to the gallon) is not enough in these energy conscious days you could do worse than go to the Cranfield College of Technology in Berkshire, England, for advice. A team from this college has just won a prize totalling £1250 for persuading an internal combustion engine vehicle to travel ten times round 1.6 kms. (one mile) long racetrack using petrol at a rate equivalent to 0.26 litres/100 kms. (1098 miles per gallon).

Of course you would have to live with the disadvantages of such an energy efficient vehicle, including a requirement to run the engine only about four times per kilometre (about six times a mile) in 10 to 30 second bursts.

High concentration needed

Concentration also needs to be high to take advantage of the slopes -- of the course -- both up and down -- and the comfort afforded by a 1.8 kms.

(6 ft.) long cigar shaped vehicle in which the driver lies down on his back would send most people scurrying gratefully back to their more conventional cars with much higher petrol consumption.

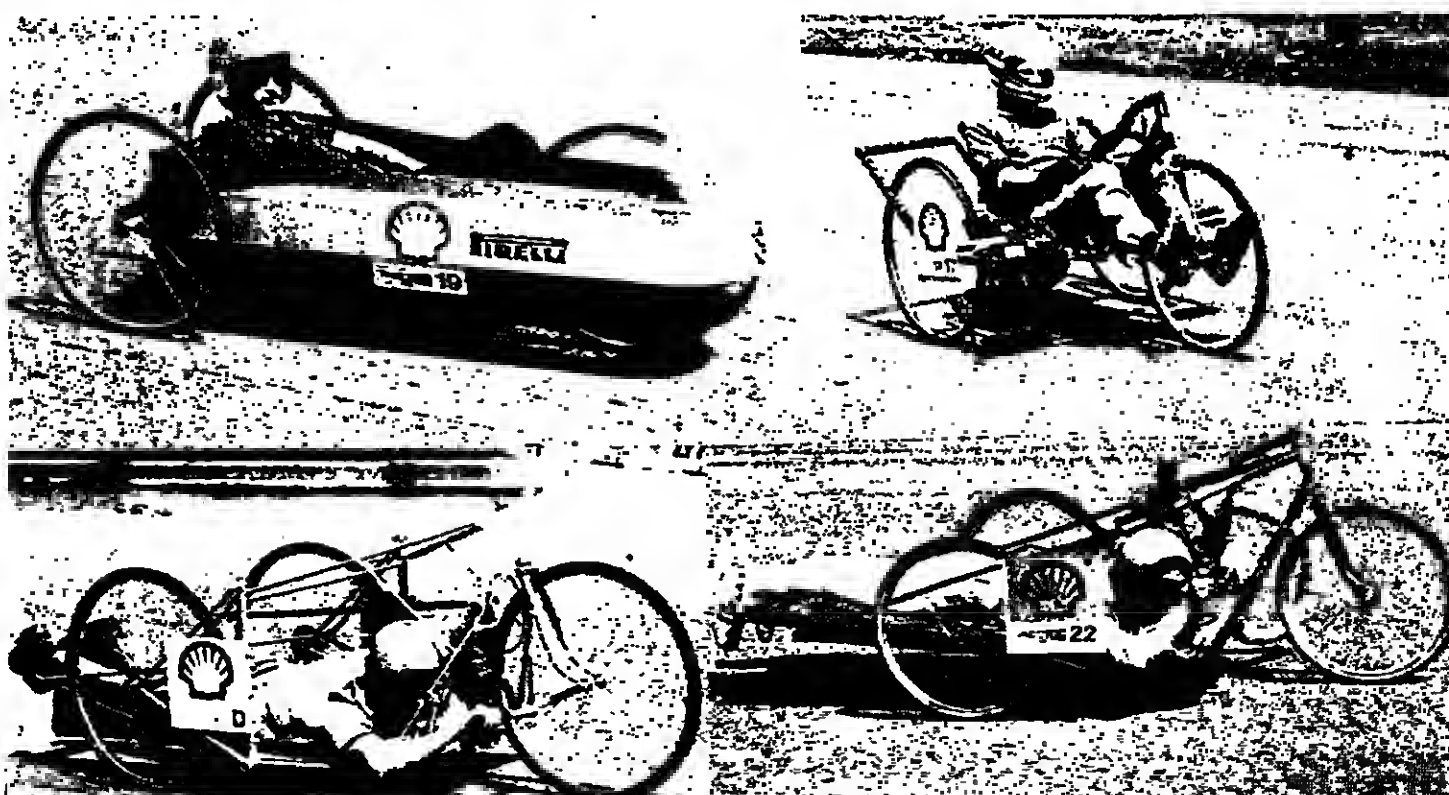
Cranfield's strange car was one of 24 from universities and colleges of further education in the Shell Super Mileage Project held at the Mallory Park motor racing circuit, Leicester, England, last year.

The absolute record was again raised this year by the crack Shell A team which, also in a car with a cigar shaped fairing, achieved the impressive figure of 0.22 litres/100 kms. (295 miles per gallon) -- but the Shell teams did not compete for the prizes.

By opening its competition to entrants outside the company this year, Shell has learnt that the competition has considerable potential for future years, and that there is still a wide of technical improvements which can lead to lower fuel consumption.

Three bicycle wheels

The achievement of the Cr-



A selection of novel internal combustion engine vehicles which took part in the Shell Super Mileage Project at the Mallory Park motor racing circuit, Leicester, England.

anfield team was not limited to producing a performance in one year which was only 69 kms. (43 miles) worse than Shell's 1976 Thornton Research Centre team could do with the benefit of six years previous experience. It also won second place for technical ingenuity and standards of construction.

In common with most of the entries it used a modified Honda 50cc engine and three bicycle wheels. But while most of the college cars were open, with their drivers taking a range of -- mostly uncomfortable -- prone positions, the Cranfield car had a lightweight glass fibre body of streamlined design -- the driver's position allowing him to concentrate on getting the most out of the machine.

The winning driver emphas-

ised that his success was in large part due to the practice that had allowed him to perfect his technique.

Electronic ignition

Three other aspects of this car's design won a mention from the technical judging team, headed by Professor Ian Fells of Newcastle University. One was the perhaps logical choice of electronic ignition, an important element for complete combustion and the reliable starting that was vital to the driving technique.

The second was the choice of a higher than standard compression ratio -- though it fell short of the 13:1 that one team coaxed its engine to achieve. The third, and arguably the most interesting, was

the use of electrical fuel heating circuits before starting, and a solenoid operated valve to close the inlet tract of the carburettor on stopping the engine -- the relevance of these, of course, is that they minimise unnecessary loss of fuel.

Novel auxiliary power source

In the technical contest the winner was a late entry from the Tampere University of Technology, Finland. Although it did not have the benefit of sophisticated streamlining, this vehicle included a two cylinder reciprocating steam engine whose heat source was the exhaust gases from a 44 cc, four-stroke moped engine.

The boiler allowed one litre of water to be converted into steam at a pressure of 2-3 bar and stored until the driver felt the heat use could be made of it. Efficiency of this novel auxiliary power source was further aided by a pre-heater circuit energised by the beat from the petrol engine's cylinder and used to warm the steam engine.

The Finnish team achieved the third best fuel figure of 0.22 litres/100 kms. (814 miles per gallon).

Vital factor

Recognition of the need to restrict power was vital in the planning that gave a team from Cambridge University the third technical prize. As Professor Fells put it, this team was the only one to realise that 50cc was too large an engine capacity for that kind of competition. The Cambridge car had a 17cc two-stroke taken from a portable generator. To drive such a relatively massive vehicle it needed a considerable reduction in gearing and the implementation of this also pleased the judging team.

Although it turned out a relatively poor performance of 0.58 litres/100 kms. (481 miles per gallon), this design showed considerable promise. Lack of time meant that the driver had literally no chance to practice the vital technique which won the first prize for Cranfield.

Both the ingenuity and the low cost of the entries in the competition -- most were between £50 and £100 -- augured well for next year's competition, the judges thought. Perhaps, the next barrier to be broken will be 0.14 litres/100 kms. (200 miles per gallon).

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Rhodesian leaders believe accord will end guerrilla war

SALISBURY, March 3 (R). — Black and white Rhodesian leaders signed an agreement here today to give the country black majority rule, under the name of Zimbabwe, on Dec. 31. Two of the three black leaders involved -- Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole -- said they believe the agreement, reached after three months of negotiations, will persuade nationalist guerrillas to end their five-year fight against white supremacy and return home in peace.

The Rhodesian constitutional agreement was reached in the absence of the foreign-based Patriotic Front guerrilla group which has led the bush war against the white minority government from neighbouring Mozambique.

The agreement was signed to-

day before a battery of news correspondents by Premier Ian Smith, Bishop Muzorewa, Mr. Sithole and Chief Jeremiah Chirau.

The ceremony began at 10:20 a.m. (08:20 GMT) and lasted six minutes.

Explaining the constitutional

positum, Rhodesian sources said under the agreement Premier Smith will not have to formally resign. The sources said Mr. Smith would have a dual role as prime minister under the present constitution and as an equal member of the interim government's upper tier, the Executive Council.

In London, British Foreign Secretary David Owen said in a BBC interview last night the internal settlement announced in Rhodesia "is the start and not the end of the process".

Prime Minister Smith has taken a big step forward, but he still has a lot to do, Dr. Owen said. "There must be more assurances that Smith is intending to give up some of the major entrenchments of the whites," Dr. Owen added.

Dr. Owen said: "I am doubtful about the guerrillas giving up their arms."

Still no clues on who stole Charlie Chaplin

CORSIER SUR VEVEY, Switzerland March 3 (AP). — Police say they have no clues to the grave robbers who stole Charlie Chaplin's body from a small, unguarded Swiss village cemetery two nights ago.

They said no ransom demand has been received, and they would not speculate on other possible motives for the theft.

Police said they were discounting the theory that the theft was masterminded by a mentally deranged person.

"If it were extortion, normally one does not hear from such people for two, three, maybe ten days," said M. Jean-Felix Paschoud, the Chaplin family lawyer.

He declined to speculate on how the family might react to a ransom demand. Chaplin's estate has been estimated at as much as \$100 million.

The thieves dug up the heavy wooden coffin and carried it off between nightfall on Wednesday and dawn on Thursday. A cross at the head of the grave was undamaged, and the police took it to a laboratory to check for fingerprints.

Chaplin died on Dec. 25 and was buried two days later in a small cemetery on a rarely travelled dirt road near this Lake Geneva village where he spent the last 20 years of his life. There was no elaborate grave marker because he had said he wanted his grave to be as simple as the others in the cemetery.

M. Paul Germain, a municipal worker who helped at the burial, said it would have taken four men to move the coffin. Police said marks on the ground indicated it had been dragged a short distance.

East German police offered Iranians 15 interrogation hours

WEST BERLIN, March 3 (R). — Twelve Iranian students arrested after briefly occupying the Iranian Embassy in East Berlin said last night they were interrogated continuously for 15 hours before being deported to the West.

They burst into the Embassy on Monday, to protest against the Iranian government's alleged repression of opponents during riots in Tabriz last month. The group held the ambassador and three of his staff for 90 minutes before being dragged out by East German police. A spokesman for the students' group here which organised the occupation said the students also found in embassy files what they said were the names of a dozen agents in West Berlin of the Iranian secret service Savak. After being driven away in a police truck, they were interrogated until early Tuesday morning. They were denied defence lawyers and sentenced in an emergency court session to between 10 months and a year in jail and deportation, the spokesman said. The students were finally sent back to West Berlin late Tuesday evening.

Meanwhile, in Tehran yesterday the Shah of Iran received Gen. Jaafar Shafaquat, the new Governor General of East Azerbaijan Province, appointed after the riots in Tabriz last month which left ten people dead and 125 injured. The former Governor General, Gen. Iskander Azmoudeh, was recalled to Tehran after the rioting in the city near the Soviet border, about 500 kms. northwest of Tehran.

Elections are not everything ...



Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai (right) takes time off from the current state elections to welcome Princess Ashraf, sister of the Shah of Iran, in New Delhi this week. Princess Ashraf is on a private visit to India. (AP wirephoto)

Ogaden needs you also



Somewhere on Somalia territory these Somali girls are being trained with submachine-guns and other weapons in the military arts. After the intensification of the Ogaden war with Ethiopia Somalia decided to call for a general mobilisation. This also included schoolgirls such as these. (AP wirephoto)

Czech-Soviet cosmonaut team prepares to dock with Salyut

MOSCOW, March 3 (AP). — A newly launched team of Russian and Czechoslovak cosmonauts began today preparing their Soyuz-28 capsule for docking with the orbiting Soviet Salyut-Six space station, TASS reported.

The Soviet news agency said that by 11:00 GMT Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Gubarev and Czechoslovak Vladimir Remek had completed 13 orbits around the earth since their blast-off from Soviet Central Asia yesterday evening.

During their first radio communications session with ground control, the cosmonauts "reported that they had started implementing the programme of preparing the Soyuz-28 ship for a rendezvous with the orbital complex Salyut-Six-Soyuz 27," TASS said.

These pre-docking preparations included a correction in the Soyuz capsule's orbital trajectory.

The new orbit was carrying them to a maximum height of 309 kms, above the earth and a minimum of 269 kms, with 90 minutes the period for each full orbit, according to TASS.

The Tass report gave no specific time for the expected space link-up.

It added that Gubarev and Remek -- as well as cosmonauts Yuri Romanenko and Georgy Grechko aboard Salyut-Six -- were feeling well.

Romanenko and Grechko, who have been in orbit since last Dec. 10, will set a new

record for continuous time in space at 02:36 GMT tomorrow, breaking the previous 84-day record set by U.S. astronauts aboard Skylab-Four four years ago.

The launching of Gubarev and Remek marked the first time that cosmonauts of two countries have been fired into space aboard the same craft.

Gubarev, a 46-year-old colonel in the Soviet air force, is serving as commander of the Soyuz-28 flight, with 29-year-old Remek, a Czechoslovak air

force captain, along on the mission as a "cosmonaut-researcher."

Remek was among prospective cosmonauts brought into the Soviet space effort from other Soviet Bloc countries under the Soviet sponsored Inter-Cosmos programme.

In an interview carried by Tass today, Gubarev said about Remek before the launching: "Vladimir has excellently prepared himself for the flight. He is one of those who can work 24 hours a day."

Snags hit cooperation bid between factions of India's Congress

NEW DELHI, March 3 (AP). — Talks broke down today between the official Congress Party and former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's breakaway wing on possible cooperation in forming a government in the Indian state of Maharashtra.

A spokesman for Mrs. Gandhi's "Indira Congress" said the current Maharashtra's chief minister and an official Congress leader had demanded that the minister be allowed to remain in office as a condition for his party's cooperation. Mrs. Gandhi found this unacceptable, he said.

The Indira Congress, created last month when Mrs. Gandhi bolted the Congress Party, won comfortable majorities in two state elections in voting last weekend, re-establishing the former prime minister as a political force.

Meanwhile, the national ruling Janata Party has claimed it has secured enough support from minor parties and independents to assemble a government in Maharashtra, which includes India's biggest city, Bombay.

Belgrade meet nears its end

BELGRADE, March 3 (R). — Western and Soviet Bloc countries backed a basic agreement today on a draft for the final declaration by the European security conference, while expressing disappointment that it did not match their respective points of view.

Of the Eastern states only Romania, maverick member of the Soviet Bloc, said the draft was insufficient and unacceptable since it contained little substance and no new measures to promote East-West military détente. The draft declaration was worked out on Wednesday night between representatives of three sides at the 35-nation gathering called to review progress since the 1975 Helsinki accord.

East and West essentially accepted the draft after lengthy bargaining, and delegations of the nine European Community, the neutral and non-aligned countries reluctantly agreed at a plenary session to accept the declaration and end the conference which is already running two weeks behind schedule.

By Samuel Koo

UNITED NATIONS (AP). — Cuba has become an increasingly influential diplomatic force at the United Nations in the years since it began sending troops, technicians and doctors around the world. Unlike its controversial military involvement in black

Africa, beginning with Angolan civil war in 1976, Cuba's role at the United Nations is drawing little adverse response from diplomats, and often, its activities here are admired by other delegations.

"Unquestionably, Cuba is an important leader of the non-aligned bloc and a constructive force at the United Nations," says Nigerian Ambassador Leslie O. Harriman.

"A tip of my hat for their single-minded pursuit of Third World leadership," says a Guatemalan envoy.

An American official whose main responsibility is to deal with Cuba and other Latin American countries says the Cubans are "well informed, diligent professionals who do their homework. They are extraordinarily active and talented."

A large delegation

Cuba, which ranks 46th out of the 149 U.N. members in terms of its contribution to the budget, maintains a delegation of 30 diplomats, the fifth largest after the Soviet Union, the United States, China and Brazil.

The Cubans, most of them in their 20s and 30s, participate in nearly all facets of U.N. activities, pressing for maximum exposure of such Third World-oriented issues as independence of small island entities like Puerto Rico, a new world economic order, Palestinian rights and Southern Africa. They also are active on the cocktail circuit and have built a reputation of never missing a party.

Their hard work and Cuba's growing foreign presence have, in the words of an Indian diplomat, made the Caribbean nation a "mini major power... Cuba's influence is such that no Third World country would want to introduce a resolution without Havana's support," the diplomat said.

Third World agitator

Others see the Cuban role as that of a catalyst, a behind-the-scenes force lining up Third World countries for confrontation against the Western powers.

Cuba's diplomatic activism also has enabled Dr. Fidel Castro's government to establish full diplomatic relations with nearly 100 nations, up from about 70, five years ago, and 49 under the government of Mr. Fulgencio Batista in 1959. Cuba has its share of enemies who occasionally cry foul over its military presence in Africa, but their warnings and criticisms are unheeded in the Third World-dominated world forum.

The United States continues to be a favourite target of Cuban verbal attack, along with Chile, Israel and South Africa. But the U.S. delegation, under the leadership of Andrew Young, no longer responds to Cuban invective with the same sharpness Mr. Daniel Patrick Moynihan displayed when he was the U.S. envoy.

Puerto Rican thorn

One of the perennial sore points between the United States and Cuba has been Havana's campaign to have the United Nations affirm a Puerto Rican right to self-determination and independence.

Cuba has made it an annual exercise to push the Puerto Rico issue. But the United States so far has prevailed with an argument that the United Nations has "no competence to discuss Puerto Rico," which was dropped from the U.N. roll of colonies in 1953 after achieving self-government and adopting a "commonwealth relationship" with the United States.

Friends are needed

Ambassador Ricardo Alarcon, who has represented Cuba here for the past 11 and a half years, explains Cuba's activist foreign policy by saying that it "had no choice but to seek out friends from afar because, for a long time, we were completely isolated in the Western Hemisphere."

Cuba now has diplomatic relations with ten members of the Organisation of American States, but it has yet to rejoin the 27-nation group from which it was expelled in 1962 because of its "interventionist" activities in other countries.

The 40-year-old Mr. Alarcon, who is returning to Havana in April to become vice foreign minister, says the United Nations will continue to be "a major theatre of our diplomatic activity" because it provides easy access to diplomats from all over the world.

Eban says Israelis must withdraw from West Bank for peace

TEL AVIV, March 3 (AP). — Former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban said today that Israel must be prepared to withdraw from territory on the West Bank if peace talks are to succeed.

Mr. Eban, writing in the Jerusalem Post, joined in a growing dispute over whether the government of Prime Minister Menachem Begin is trying to exclude the West Bank from U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 which calls for Israeli withdrawal from territory captured in the 1967 war.

Some Israeli sources and respected political writers like the Post's David Landau have reported that Mr. Begin's attempt to insist that the resolution need not apply to the West Bank is at the crux of the peace talks deadlock.

Begin-Carter talks

U.S. President Jimmy Carter warned yesterday night that any "abandonment" of Resolution 242 would set back peace talks. The question of interpretation of the resolution was expected to be a major topic during Mr. Begin's visit to Washington in two weeks. At issue is the long-standing view in Washington that Resolution 242 calls for Israeli withdrawal in all areas: the Sinai, the Golan Heights and the West Bank and Gaza. The Begin government has maintained that Israel need not pull out of the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Eban, involved in the drafting of the 1967 resolution, wrote that "if the present Israeli government now seeks to interpret 242 as having no application to the West Bank and Gaza, it will come into conflict not only with the policy of the entire world community, but also world jurisprudence."

Israel has accepted 242

Mr. Eban argued that previous Israeli governments had accepted the principle of withdrawal from some West Bank territory and that last year the Begin government endorsed Resolution 242 without making any distinction between the West Bank and other territories captured in 1967.

It follows that an evasion of that acceptance would undermine the government's international credibility and disqualify it from general domestic support," Mr. Eban said.

"Let Arabs destroy peace"

Mr. Eban said that "if peace effort fails through Arab insistence on total withdrawal, we shall be sustained by domestic unity and a measure of international understanding. If it fails through Israeli insistence on excluding the option of territorial compromise West of the Jordan, we shall face our crisis alone."

Mr. Eban noted that Israel's cabinet and parliament previously reaffirmed the country's adherence to 242 and willingness to withdraw from at least part of the West Bank. That action caused Begin to resign from a National Unity cabinet on grounds Israel had committed itself to transferring most of the West Bank to Jordan.

The clearest statement Mr. Begin's position is in a peace plan which proposes form of autonomy for Palestinians living on the West Bank but allows Jewish settlements to remain and leaves the question of sovereignty open.

Mr. Eban, a member of opposition Labour Party, the likely choice as minister had Labour won 1977 election. Other Labour who have criticised Mr. Begin's stand on the West Bank include former Premier Yitzhak Rabin, who said Israel's position tended to exclude Jews from negotiations.

World News Briefs

China-Israel ties after Mideast peace?

TOKYO, March 3 (AP). — China has declared that only if Israel abandons its policy of "aggression and expansion" will it be able to exist side by side with the Arab countries and as a responsible state in the world. The Peking People's Daily said in an editorial yesterday criticising Israel for building more settlements in formerly held Arab territories. The editorial suggested obliquely that Peking may be prepared to recognize Israel if peace is established in the Mideast. It follows the visit last month, to Peking of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's special envoy, Hassan Al Tohamy. Though there is no official record that Peking has ever refused to accept the reality of Israel's existence, its long-held policy has been to support Arabs and condemn Israeli "aggression." No official relations exist between the two countries.

Al Mahdi: Egypt-Sudan unity for all Arabs

KHARTOUM, March 3 (R). — Former Premier Sadat Mahdi was reported yesterday as saying current moves towards integration of Sudan and Egypt should provide nucleus for overall Arab unity. In an interview with the daily newspaper Al Ayam he said: "Sudanese-Egyptian integration should not take the form of an axis but should be the gradual achievement of overall Arab unity, the unity of the Arab peoples." He said some people had tried to doubt on relations with Egypt but these were unfounded. The former Opposition Front said its reconciliation year with the regime of President Jaafar Nimeiri ended with suppression and violence.

Greek-Turk Swiss summit this month

ATHENS, March 3 (R). — The Greek and Turkish Ministers, Mr. Constantine Karamanlis and Mr. Bulent Yildirim will meet in Switzerland sometime between March 10 and 15, a government spokesman said last night. They had agreed they had agreed to meet to try to solve their disputes Cyprus and the Aegean Sea.

War of nerves over Filipino kidnap

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines, March 3 (AP). — Philippine military and Moslem rebel kidnappers were in a battle of nerves yesterday as a French government and at least five relatives of his abductors endured a siege of captivity. Informal sources said the military was holding relatives as insurance against the kidnappers' having M. Huguet, 59, a Sub-Director in the French Finance Ministry, been used at least once before to gain freedom for a kidnapped foreigner. Three armed men seized M. Huguet Sunday as he took photographs of a Moslem village on vacation in Zamboanga City, 860 kms. south of Manila. Abductors reportedly are asking \$150,000 ransom, demand a note written by M. Huguet and delivered on Wednesday night by an emissary sent to talk with the rebel band.

Kyprianou urges U.S. not to aid Turkey

NICOSIA, March 3 (R). — Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou has urged President Carter not to seek United Congressional approval for \$1 billion worth of arms Turkey, senior government sources said yesterday. The would be conveyed to President Carter by U.S. Ambassador William Crawford who called on President Kyprianou yesterday, they said. Under the agreement Turkey would use of military bases closed by the Turks in 1975.